



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

City of Lackawanna, NY

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Lackawanna for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Lackawanna (population 19,064) is located in Erie County just south of Buffalo in western New York state. The city experienced rapid growth in the early 1900s due to the construction of one of the world's largest steel plants, which employed nearly 20,000 people. When the bulk of the steel mill's operations closed in the early 1970s, many of the associated industries closed as well. Since that time, the population has declined by over 30 percent. The city has identified three potential sites for assessment: the 3-acre former incinerator site, the vacant Willett Road site, and properties adjacent to the Seneca Railyard.

Lackawanna's economic downturn is exemplified by its designation as an Enterprise Community and a New York State Empire Zone. Due to the rapid decline in population and jobs, 16.7 percent of Lackawanna residents live below the poverty level and 9.4 percent are unemployed. Forty-seven percent of the city's residents have annual incomes of \$20,000 or less.

OBJECTIVES

The city's overall objective is to develop a logical and economically suitable means of making additional property available for redevelopment. Redevelopment will improve the quality of life for city residents and increase long-term economic opportunities. To accomplish this objective, the city will identify, screen, and select sites that support Lackawanna's economic development strategy.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Screening potential brownfields to identify the sites with the highest potential for redevelopment;

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Lackawanna,
New York*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets brownfields in an economically disadvantaged community suffering from the loss of its steel manufacturing industry.

Contacts:

City of Lackawanna	Regional Brownfields Team
Department of Development	U.S. EPA Region 2
(716) 827-6681	(212) 637-4334

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

- Inventorying potential brownfield sites and reviewing ownership and site-use histories to identify potential environmental concerns;
- Conducting environmental assessments to identify and characterize environmental conditions;
- Preparing focused remedial plans for each site assessed that will include plans for reuse; and

- Conducting community involvement activities that will keep the public and community leaders involved in the decision making process.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.